

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry Portfolio  
Additional Budget Estimates 2013-14  
27 February 2014

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

**TOPIC:** Industry Policy Evaluations

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 27 February 2014, pages 62-63)

**QUESTION No.:** AI-22

**CHAIR:** You indicate there have been quite a few. Are you able to take on notice, then, what assessments have been conducted and a summary of the outcomes-primarily whether the broad conclusions are that they were successful in achieving the objectives of the policies or otherwise?

**Mr Ryan:** Certainly. Do you want to do that within a certain time frame?

**CHAIR:** Since the 1980s?

**Ms Beauchamp:** Are you talking about Commonwealth assessments of industry policy or are you including think tanks or other organisations?

**CHAIR:** Commonwealth initiated.

**Ms Beauchamp:** Okay.

## **ANSWER**

The scope of the response to QoN AI-22 has been modified following enquiries with the Senate Economics Legislation Committee Secretariat. It was agreed the original scope would have been too resource intensive. The scope now covers a core sample of policy evaluations and reviews dating back to the late 1990's.

There have been no comprehensive evaluations of the success of industry policy as a whole. However, various Australian Governments have commissioned reviews of aspects of industry policy, both broad and by sector. Governments have often responded to these reviews through various industry statements. In most cases these statements announce the introduction of new sectoral measures which aim to achieve specific outcomes related to broad policy goals.

A small set of examples of some of the broad industry statements and reviews undertaken by the Productivity Commission are provided below.

### **Broad Industry Statements**

- The Mortimer industry program review, *Going for Growth*, in 1997.
- Backing Australia's Ability – An Innovation Action Plan for the Future, in 2001.
- Global Integration – Changing Markets, New Opportunities, in May 2007.
- Venturous Australia – a review of the National Innovation System in 2008. The Government response was Powering Ideas – An Innovation Agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century released in May 2009.

- Review of the Australian Textile, Clothing and Footwear Industries – *Building Innovative Capability*, in 2008.
- Review of Australia’s Automotive Industry by the Hon Steve Bracks, in 2008. The Government’s response was A New Car Plan for a Greener Future.
- A Plan for Australian Jobs – The Australian Government’s Industry and Innovation Statement released in 2013.

### **Productivity Commission Reviews**

The Productivity Commission has conducted a number of sectoral reviews. A selection of these reviews is as follows:

- The Automotive Industry, in 1997.
- The Textiles, Clothing and Footwear(TCF) Industries, in 1997.
- Review of Australia’s General Tariff Arrangements, in 2000.
- Review of Automotive Assistance, in 2002.
- Evaluation of the Pharmaceutical Industry Investment Program, in 2003.
- Review of TCF Assistance, in 2003.
- Restrictions of the Parallel Importation of Books, in 2009.
- Australia’s Anti-dumping and Countervailing System, in 2010.

The Productivity Commission has also been commissioned to undertake studies covering various aspects of industry policy including science and innovation, and in relation to the impacts of regulation in such areas as chemicals and plastics and building.

Details of the scope of the sectoral reviews and studies and their outcomes are available on the Productivity Commission website.

In addition, the Productivity Commission produces annual estimates of industry assistance in its annual Trade and Assistance Review publication.